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1967-68 SURVEY OF SALARIES.

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AN INVESTIGATION OF ENGLISH PROFESSORS' SALARIES AT THE THREE PROFESSORIAL RANKS IN STATE INSTITUTIONS WITH FAIRLY WELL ESTABLISHED PH.D. PROGRAMS IN ENGLISH REVEALS THAT (1) FOR FULL PROFESSORS, AVERAGE SALARIES RANGE FROM A LOW OF $12,000 TO A HIGH OF $18,000, (2) FOR ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS, FROM $9,414 TO $13,500, AND (3) FOR ASSISTANT PROFESSORS, FROM $8,060 TO $11,000 AND UP. THERE APPEARS TO BE MORE CORRELATION BETWEEN THE SIZE OF A DOCTORAL PROGRAM AND SALARY THAN BETWEEN GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION AND SALARY. (BN)

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1967-68 Survey of Salaries

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Again this fall, in the course of preparing my budget presentation, I wrote to English department chairmen in universities comparable to mine attempting to ascertain prevailing salary rates at the three professorial ranks. I operated somewhat more scientifically than in the previous surveys I have taken (such as the one which is summarized in the April 1967 ADE Bulletin, pp.7-8): though "comparable" might mean many things, I chose to investigate only state institutions with fairly well established Ph.D. programs in English. Working from the ACE's Guide to Graduate Study (3rd ed., 1965), I selected the thirty-four state universities which awarded at least five doctorates in English between 1960 and 1964. Within four weeks, I heard from all but six of the chairmen to whom I sent requests for information--an excellent response, I think, at a frighteningly busy season of the year for chairmen.

I asked for minimum, maximum, and average nine-month salaries in each rank, but on reflection I have come to feel that probably neither the minimum nor the maximum is very significant. One knows of any number of special cases, both at the top and at the bottom, which render these figures less useful than averages. Even average salaries may be difficult to represent accurately: what for example, does one do about people on joint appointments, or administrative appointments, or twelve-month appointments? Recognizing these built-in hazards, I give a summary of the figures as I received them, for whatever they may be worth (which I think is a good deal).

Twenty-five universities responded to my request for average salaries. For full professors, average salaries ranged from a low of $12,000 to a high of $18,000. The median average salary was $15,455; the average average salary $15,312. For associate professors, average salaries ranged from a low of $9,414 to a high of $13,500. The median average salary was $11,200; the average average salary $11,219. For assistant professors, finally, average salaries ranged from a low of $8,060 to a high of $11,000 and up. The median average salary was $9,255; the average average salary $9,346.

Because I have promised not to divulge salary figures for specific institutions, and because I am certainly no statistician, I am reluctant to comment or generalize on the significance of these figures. It does appear, however, that there is more of a correlation between the size of a doctoral program and salary than between geographical location and salary (though, in general, Midwestern state universities, especially those in the "Big Ten," fare better than those in other parts of the country, particularly the South). At the full-professor rank, for instance, the top six institutions in average salaries produced an average of not quite eight Ph.D.'s each per year between 1960 and 1964; four of them are "Big Ten" schools, and the other two are in two different regions. The bottom six institutions, on the other hand, graduated an average of not quite two Ph.D.'s each annually during that five-year period; two of them are in the Middle West (not "Big Ten"), two in the South, one in the East, and one in the West.

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